

Overview of State and Private Forestry Mission Area

Introduction

The State and Private Forestry mission area of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service helps manage, protect, and better use all America's forests. The role of this mission area is more direct on the Federal lands where we help control wildfires and major forest pests and diseases, and more indirect on non-Federal lands where we work with States and communities, in a variety of cooperative programs. These include forest pest management, fire protection, cooperative forestry, economic development, and conservation education. The programs of this mission area help all land managers—Federal managers, small woodlot owners, tribal lands, and State agencies—in ways that help maintain the health and sustainability of trees, forests, and forested ecosystems and associated communities.

Mission

Benefit people by helping manage and protect their trees, grass and chaparral lands, and forested landscapes through expert advice and direct action, innovative technology, and financial assistance.

Vision

Through focused investments, we will help manage, protect, and use our natural resources so they remain healthy and sustainable. Our role is more direct on public lands and in cooperation with partners on State, private, and tribal lands. Our assistance is viewed as essential to the well-being of people and their communities.

Program Components

The following are the major program components of the State and Private Forestry mission area:

- **Urban and Community Forestry.** Enhance the livability of towns, communities, and cities by improving the stewardship of urban natural resources.
- **Forest Health Protection.** Help sustain the health and productivity of trees, forests, and forested watersheds through the management, control, and eradication of insects and diseases, including noxious weeds on all lands. This program component includes forest health monitoring to assess forest sustainability trends.
- **Cooperative Fire Protection.** Improve the fire management and control capability of States, including their volunteer fire departments, through financial assistance, training, improved equipment, and coordination. This includes helping develop an optimal firefighting capability to augment the most efficient Federal firefighting level and to ensure the protection of lives and property in the wildland-urban interface areas.
- **Cooperative Forestry.** Help States improve the multiresource management of non-Federal rural and urban forest lands through technical and financial assistance in a series of programs, including forest stewardship, forest legacy, and economic diversification and expansion.
- **Conservation Education.** Connects people to the land by increasing their awareness of the natural and cultural environment, helping them understand the complexities of ecological issues, and teaching them how to conserve natural and cultural resources for future generations.